

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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R 191523Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3250

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 6014

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR OAU XA XF

SUBJ: OAU: AFRO-ARAB "COOPERATION"

REF: ADDIS 1938

SUMMARY AND COMMENT: ARAB-BLACK AFRICAN TENSIONS CONTINUE TO COMPLICATE CURRENT OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (CM) IN ADDIS. DISCUSSIONS OF THE DETAILS OF AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION CONTINUE IN THE PLENARY LONG PAST THEIR ALLOTTED TIME. SUB-SAHARAN AFRICANS, ALTHOUGH FULLY AWARE OF POTENTIALLY HELPFUL ARAB FINANCIAL RESOURCES, HAVE REACTED STRONGLY AGAINST ARAB ATTEMPTS TO DOMINATE AFRO-ARAB RELATIONS. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

1. A CM SUB-COMMITTEE HAS REJECTED THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT

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OF AN OFFICE OF AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION IN CAIRO. THE ISSUE, HOW-

EVER, IS NOT COMPLETELY DEAD AND COULD BE RESURRECTED IN THE PLENARY. MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THE CM WILL ADOPT THE ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION OF ESTABLISHING SUCH AN OFFICE WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT IN ADDIS ABABA.

2. AMID MUCH CRITICISM OF SUDANESE MINISTER KHALID MANSOUR "AS AN ARAB," THE CM ELECTED JOHN MALECELA, TANZANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, AS THE NEW HEAD OF THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN (SEE PARA 3 REFTEL). ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE SOURCE, THE SELECTION OF MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOUKNAS AS CM CHAIRMAN WAS AN EFFORT TO BRIDGE THE ARAB-SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN GAP. SINCE A BLACK AFRICA STATE (UGANDA) WOULD MOST LIKELY BE CHOSEN FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE OAU AT THE OAU SUMMIT THIS SUMMER, THE CHOICE OF MOUKNAS, WHO APPARENTLY WAS A COMPROMISE CANDIDATE, WAS A GESTURE TOWARD THE NORTH AFRICANS WITHOUT ACTUALLY NAMING A MAGHRIBI.

3. IN SPITE OF AFRO-ARAB DISSENT ON THE ABOVE ITEMS, THE OAU REMAINED RELATIVELY UNITED ON MID EAST POLICIES. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 18, A/SECGEN PETER ONU DEALT PRIMARILY WITH MID EAST MATTERS. HE SAID THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE OAU HAD EMPHASIZED THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION AND THE CM HAD REQUESTED THAT PALESTINE BE MADE A SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM FOR THE NEXT OAU CONFERENCE IN KAMPALA. ONU STATED THAT THE CM BELIEVED THAT "THIS ISSUE SHOULD NOT BE LEFT SOLELY TO THE SUPER POWERS" AND THAT THE OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE SHOULD PROVIDE AT LEAST TOKEN ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION AS IT HAS OTHER LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA. ONU SAID THAT THE CM HAD REQUESTED THE LIBERATION COMMITTEE TO PREPARE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PLO A PALESTINE STRATEGY FOR PRESENTATION AT THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT MEETING IN RABAT. THE CM, HE SAID, CALLED FOR INCREASED ISOLATION OF ISRAEL IN ALL FIELDS, EXPRESSED ITS FULL SOLIDARITY FOR EGYPT AND THE PLO AND CONDEMNED ISRAEL FOR CONTINUED ACTS OF AGGRESSION ON SYRIA AND LEBANON.

WYMAN

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